

Message Text

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PAGE 01 ANKARA 05867 151338Z
ACTION EUR-12

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SUBJECT: PUBLIC SECTOR COLLECTIVE BARGAINING - V

REF: ANKARA 5319

1. INTENSIVE EFFORTS ON THE PART OF THE CONFEDERATION OF TURKISH TRADE UNIONS (TURK-IS) AND THE MINISTRY OF ENTERPRISES OVER THE PAST THREE WEEKS HAVE RESULTED IN THE SUCCESSFUL CONCLUSION OF NEW LABOR CONTRACTS FOR APPROXIMATELY 230,000 WORKERS IN PUBLIC SECTOR UNDERTAKINGS. THE AREAS COVERED INCLUDE: THE STATE MONOPOLIES (TEKEL) -- FOOD, DRINK AND TOBACCO MANUFACTURES; TEA PRODUCTION AND PROCESSING; SUGAR; HIGHWAYS; AND AIRLINES. NEGOTIATIONS ARE UNDER WAY FOR APPROXIMATELY A FURTHER 115,000 IN THE ENERGY FIELD, CERTAIN RAILWAYS, DOCKS, AND SEA TRANSPORT SECTORS, MINES (OTHER THAN COAL), FORESTRY AND THE TURKISH MEAT AND FISH CORPORATION. THE MOST DIFFICULT OF THESE IS IN THE ENERGY FIELD WHERE THE UNION (TES-IS) IS PUTTING UP A DETERMINED FIGHT FOR BETTER TERMS FOR ITS SKILLED TECHNICIANS IN ELECTRICITY PRODUCTION AND TRANSMISSION.

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PAGE 02 ANKARA 05867 151338Z

2. THE TERMS OF THE CONTRACTS ALREADY CONCLUDED HAVE NOT BEEN MADE PUBLIC, AND IT WILL BE SOME TIME BEFORE THE DETAILS WILL BECOME WIDELY KNOWN. AN OFFICIAL OF TURK-IS SUMMARIZED THE RESULTS FOR THE LABOR ATTACHE AS FOLLOWS:

(A). AVERAGE WAGE INCREASES TL100 PER DAY FOR THE FIRST

YEAR AND A FURTHER TL 100 PER DAY FOR THE SECOND YEAR. THE EFFECTIVE DATE DEPENDS ON THE EXPIRY DATE OF THE FORMER CONTRACTS, WHICH MEANS RETROACTIVE EFFECT OF AT LEAST THREE MONTHS OR UP TO NINE MONTHS.

(B). BONUSES HAVE BEEN INCREASED IN NUMBER BY ONE OR TWO MONTHS' PAY PER YEAR SO THAT THREE BONUSES PER YEAR WILL BE THE NORM AND FOUR BONUSES NOT UNCOMMON.

(C). SOCIAL BENEFITS AND FRINGES (ALLOWANCES FOR FUEL, FAMILY, EDUCATION OF CHILDREN, VACATION, ETC.) HAVE BEEN INCREASED SLIGHTLY.

3. THE OVERALL EFFECT OF THE NEW CONTRACTS IS ESTIMATED TO BE IN THE RANGE OF A 90 PERCENT INCREASE OVER THE TWO-YEAR TERM. EMPHASIS HAS BEEN GIVEN TO THE LOWER PAID WORKERS, IN KEEPING WITH THE PHILOSOPHY OF THE ECEVIT GOVERNMENT AND THE SPIRIT OF THE "SOCIAL CONTRACT" (SEE REFTTEL), SO THAT THEY HAVE RECEIVED A HIGHER PERCENTAGE INCREASE AND THE HIGHER PAID WORKERS A LOWER PERCENTAGE. CONSEQUENTLY, THE DIFFERENTIALS IN THE WAGE LEVELS HAVE BEEN NARROWED.
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